

December 13, 2021

Board of Ethics.

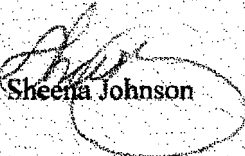
My name is Sheena Johnson. I am a former employee of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. I worked as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for three years until I resigned to pursue a contract with the agency to provide employment services as a vendor. Prior to separating from the agency I contacted your office and spoke with one of your staff attorneys to verify that I would be able to leave the agency and pursue a contract with LRS without having to wait two years.

According to the following code: La. R.S. 42:1121(B) I was not prohibited from becoming a vendor for LRS because I did not provide the same or similar services as a VR Counselor that I'm currently providing as a vendor. Recently, I was told by a Regional Supervisor that I would not be able to provide services to any of my former clients that were in my caseload as a VR Counselor because it was considered a "conflict of interest". Upon approval of my contract I was not informed of any restrictions to whom I was able to work with. So, to my knowledge there were no restrictions.

I, in no way, shape, or form have any ties to my former clients other than the fact that I worked with them as their VR Counselor. Each individual is provided informed choice as to the which vendor they choose to receive services from. I made the conscious decision upon leaving the agency not to tell any of my clients that I was starting a business and providing services through LRS because I wanted to level the playing field. If they choose me as a vendor I would hope that it's after properly being provided a complete list of all of their options. With that being said, I don't believe that this is considered a conflict of interest, but I'm requesting a formal advisory on the matter so that I know how to proceed moving forward. I was informed that the next meeting would be held on January 7, 2021 and am requesting that my issue be addressed during this meeting in order to expedite things.

If more information is needed I can be reached at 337-540-6276 or you can email me at johnsonvocationalservices@gmail.com. I appreciate your time and consideration in regards to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Sheena Johnson



Unknown @Port 9100

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